

Stem Cell Agency Board Approves Almost \$30 Million to Overcome Research Barriers

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San Francisco, CA – It's an old maxim that to get a job done right you need the right tools, that's why CIRM, California's stem cell agency, today approved \$29.75 million in funding for new approaches to overcome obstacles and advance stem cell research.

The Tools and Technologies Awards are intended to create and test novel tools and technologies, to improve existing ones, and to help resolve problems that are holding back the field.

Altogether 20 projects were approved for funding including:

- Work at the Scripps Research Institute on a new method for detecting DNA damage in stem cells to ensure that only the highest quality cells are used in transplantation or therapy
- Researchers at the University of Southern California are creating a device that acts as a form of dialysis for the liver, removing toxins from the bloodstream and enabling the liver to regenerate, sparing the patient from the need for a transplant.
- Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco hope to develop a method of expanding the number of stem cells that can be obtained from umbilical cord blood, making life-saving bone marrow transplants more readily available to thousands of people who currently lack a matched donor.
- Stanford researchers are developing an injectable "scaffold" that will increase the ability of stem cells transplanted into the body to survive, grow and create new, healthy tissue.

"Sometimes even the most promising therapy can be derailed by a tiny problem," says Jonathan Thomas, J.D., Ph.D., Chair of the CIRM Board. "These awards are designed to help find ways to overcome those problems, to bridge the gaps in our knowledge and ensure that the best research is able to keep progressing and move out of the lab and into clinical trials in patients."

Two of the Tools and Technology Awards involve co-funding partnerships between US and overseas institutions, pairing Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, and the University of Southern California.

Funded projects

Application	Researcher	Institution	ICOC committed Funding
RT3-07692	Andrew Leavitt	UCSF	\$1,416,600
RT3-07949	Qi-Long Ying	USC	\$1,499,400
RT3-07804	Fan Yang	Stanford	\$1,452,708
RT3-07914	James Dunn	UCLA	\$1,818,751
RT3-07848	Paula Cannon	USC	\$1,500,624
RT3-07893	Mathew Blurton-Jones	UC Irvine	\$1,147,596
RT3-07800	David Schaffer	UC Berkeley	\$1,380,557
RT3-07683	Irving Weissman	Stanford	\$1,452,708
RT3-07948	Sarah Heilshorn	Stanford	\$1,452,708
RT3-07798	Joseph Wu	Stanford	\$1,936,944

RT3-07763	Hanna Mikkola	UCLA	\$1,382,400
RT3-07655	Jeanne Loring	Scripps	\$1,784,052
RT3-07879	Laura Marcu	UC Davis	\$1,838,337
RT3-07907	Shyni Varghese	UCSD	1,393,200
RT3-07796	Anthony Oro	Stanford	\$1,452,708
RT3-07616	Leif Havton	UC Irvine	\$1,308,711
RT3-07670	Toshio Miki	USC	\$1,393,290
RT3-07899	Shaochen Chen	UCSD	\$1,368,517
RT3-07838	Larry Couture	City of Hope	\$899,728
RT3-07981	Kent Leach	UC Davis	\$1,846,529
		Total	\$29,726,068

About CIRM

At CIRM, we never forget that we were created by the people of California to accelerate stem cell treatments to patients with unmet medical needs, and act with a sense of urgency to succeed in that mission.

To meet this challenge, our team of highly trained and experienced professionals actively partners with both academia and industry in a hands-on, entrepreneurial environment to fast track the development of today's most promising stem cell technologies.

With \$3 billion in funding and approximately 300 active stem cell programs in our portfolio, CIRM is the world's largest institution dedicated to helping people by bringing the future of cellular medicine closer to reality.

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